

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Confirmation No.: 7499
Hiroyuki TOMIZAWA et al.)
Serial No. 10/527,797) Examiner: John P. Sheehan
Filed: March 15, 2005) Group Art Unit: 1742
For: R-T-B SINTERED MAGNET AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME) Date: September 22, 2008

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In reply to the Final Office Action mailed May 22, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 22, 2008 was received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were pending prior to the instant amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Uchida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,468,365, hereinafter, Uchida). Uchida, however, fails to render the claimed invention unpatentable. Each of the claims recite a specific combination of features that distinguishes the invention from the prior art in different ways. For example, independent claim 1 recites a combination that includes, among other things:

“27.0 mass% to 32.0 mass% of R, which is at least one of Nd, Pr, Dy and Tb and which always includes either Nd or Pr . . . 63.0 mass% to 72.5 mass% of T, which always includes Fe and up to 50% of which is replaceable with Co . . . 0.01 mass% to 0.08 mass% of Ga . . . 0.85 mass% to 0.96 mass % of B . . . wherein the magnet comprises a main phase with a tetragonal R2T14B type crystal structure, which accounts for at least 90% of the overall volume of the magnet, but includes substantially no R1.1Fe4B4 phases.”